

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**WEST END DRUG DEALER PLEADS GUILTY TO
CRACK COCAINE AND GUN CHARGES**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **ANTHONY LEWIS**, age 30, of 828 South 38th Street, Louisville, Kentucky, **pled guilty** to possessing with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of cocaine base ("crack" cocaine), possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. The crack cocaine and marijuana had an estimated street value of \$5,200 and \$2,800, respectively.

Lewis faces a minimum of 15 years' imprisonment. He also faces maximum potential penalties of life imprisonment, a \$4,500,000.00 fine, and a term of supervised release of at least 5 years and could include life. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Operation Backfire

A typical bust by LMPD leads to federal prosecution

The following is a typical accounting of facts involving local law enforcement, state prosecutors, and the U.S. Attorney's Office to ensure that criminals dealing in guns and drugs that may result in violence are prosecuted to the fullest extent.

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According to a written Plea Agreement filed in open court, **Lewis** admitted that on or about November 23, 2004, at approximately 4:00 p.m., Louisville Metro Police Department detectives observed a black male on the porch of 828 South 38th Street, Louisville, Kentucky. The detectives knew the man as a drug user. They observed the man knock on the door of the residence. Shortly thereafter, the door opened and the man departed.

The man left the residence on South 38th Street and started walking westbound on Garland Avenue. The detectives observed the man playing with something in his hand then place the item in his jean pocket. The detectives stopped the man and talked to him. As a result of a frisk, they found a piece of suspected crack cocaine. The man told the detectives that he had gotten the substance from “Tug,” later identified as the defendant, Anthony Lewis. The man also stated that Lewis paid him with crack cocaine for working at the residence. The residence at 828 South 38th Street was being renovated and the man helped with repair work in the renovation. The man advised the detectives that “Tug” had just paid him with the suspected crack cocaine. He further stated that he had been getting drugs from “Tug” off and on for approximately two years. The man also stated that “Tug” drives the 1994 Chevrolet Impala parked in front of the residence on South 38th Street. The Impala bore a Kentucky license plate 428JPW. Anthony Lewis and another person were listed as the registered owners with an address on Dearborn Avenue.

The detectives showed the man a photograph of a black male, Anthony Lewis. He identified the man in the photograph as the man he knew as “Tug” and the person who had given him drugs for the work he performed at the residence. The detectives also confirmed Lewis’ prior criminal record pertaining to possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, marijuana. They also checked Jefferson County Property Valuation Administration records and learned that Lewis’ mother owned the property at 828 South 38th Street.

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Based on the information provided in the Affidavit for Search Warrant, the Jefferson District Court issued a Search Warrant for 828 South 38th Street in Louisville, Kentucky. The Court issued the warrant on November 23, 2004. Law enforcement officials executed the Search Warrant on November 23, 2004.

During execution of the warrant, law enforcement officials found numerous items. For example, they found, among other things, marijuana, cocaine base (commonly referred to as “crack” cocaine), cash, firearms (including a loaded Ruger Model P89DC, 9mm pistol, bearing serial number 305-46142 and a loaded Leinad Inc. Model PM11, 9mm pistol, bearing serial number 94-0026132), cellular telephones, and bills with the name Anthony Lewis.

Law enforcement officials submitted the suspected controlled substances for chemical analysis by the Kentucky State Police Laboratory. The analysis revealed a positive result for cocaine base. The substance weighed approximately 134 grams. The analysis on the suspected marijuana also revealed a positive result for marijuana. The marijuana weighed approximately 524 grams (approximately 18.4 ounces). According to National Drug Intelligence Center figures, the crack cocaine had an estimated street value of \$5,170.00 and the marijuana had an estimated street value of \$2,760.00.

On October 13, 1995, Lewis was convicted of Illegal Possession of Controlled Substance in the First Degree, in case number 95CR0797 in Jefferson Circuit Court, Louisville, Kentucky, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year. After having been convicted of the felony offense, Lewis knowingly possessed a loaded Ruger Model P89DC, 9mm pistol, bearing serial number 305-46142 and a loaded Leinad Inc. Model PM11, 9mm pistol, bearing serial number 94-0026132. Neither the Ruger nor the Leinad firearm was manufactured in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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Lewis possessed the cocaine base with the intent to distribute it. He also possessed the loaded Ruger Model P89DC, 9mm pistol, bearing serial number 305-46142 and loaded Leinad Inc. Model PM11, 9mm pistol, bearing serial number 94-0026132 in furtherance of his drug trafficking crimes.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Louisville Metro Police Department.

This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

Lewis is scheduled to appear for sentencing before Chief United States District Judge John G. Heyburn, II, on February 23, 2007, at 1:30 p.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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DLH:JEL:060013